

REMARKSAmendments

In the claims, claims 3 to 5 and 10 to 12 have been rewritten in independent form, and they have been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 to 9, 13, 14, and 54 to 63 have been canceled. This has been done in the interest of rapid prosecution and without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute claims of similar or different scope in one or more continuation applications. The amendments have been made solely to more clearly define and recite the present invention, and are not in any way related to the Examiner's rejection based on prior art nor any applied or cited prior art.

The Rejection Under 35 USC § 102(b)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 14, 54, 57, and 59-62 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Asano (U.S. Patent No. 3,591,718). Applicants believe that these rejections have been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

The Rejection Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2, 9, and 63 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Asano (U.S. Patent No. 3,591,718). Applicants believe that these rejections have been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

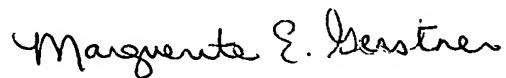
Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 8 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Asano (U.S. Patent No. 3,591,718) in view of Applicant's prior art admission. Applicants believe that this rejection has been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of this claim.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 55, 56, and 58 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Asano (U.S. Patent No. 3,591,718) in view of Kent (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0164820). Applicants believe that these rejections have been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Conclusion

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is earnestly requested. If, however, there are any outstanding issues which can be usefully discussed by telephone, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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